II. REMARKS

Claims 1 to 13 remain pending.

Claim 1 was amended.

Claims 14 to 44 are canceled.

Among other things, amended claim 1 now recites that the method for printing a document "determine(s) a required printer type, wherein the required printer type comprises a specific printer, a color printer, and a black/white printer." The pages are separated by required printer type "into a plurality of print jobs wherein all of the print jobs based on the specific printer are first allocated together, then all unallocated print jobs based on the color printer are separately allocated together, and then all remaining unallocated print jobs are allocated together and based on the black/white printer." Support for this amendment is found in the specification in at least FIG. 3, steps **(210)** to **(218)**.

Claim 1 is further amended to include the elements of previously pending claim 14 reciting that "the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile includes data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer."

No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The previously pending claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christodoulou et al. (2002/0159092, hereinafter "Christodoulou") in view of

Rourke et al. (U.S. 5,995,721, hereafter "Rourke"). Previously pending claim 14, now incorporated into claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christodoulou and Rourke in view of Chang et al. (U.S. 7,318,086, hereafter "Chang"). Pending claims 2 to 13 depend from claim 1 and inherit all of the elements of claim 1. Therefore all of the claims are allowable if claim 1 is allowable.

Amended claim 1 recites "analyzing a metadata in a plurality of document pages to determine a required printer type, wherein the required printer type is one or more of a specific printer, a color printer, or a black/white printer; separating each of the plurality of document pages into a plurality of print jobs based on the required printer type for each document page, wherein all of the print jobs based on the specific printer are first allocated together, then all unallocated print jobs based on the color printer are separately allocated together, and then all remaining unallocated print jobs are allocated together and based on the black/white printer; placing each of the plurality of document pages into an appropriate holding queue for an appropriate printer for each of the allocated print jobs; selecting the appropriate printer for each of the plurality of print jobs; wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile includes data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer; and printing the plurality of print jobs on a plurality of appropriate printers."

The examiner cites Christodoulou, [0036], line 9-16 and Rourke 2:19-24; 5:15-21 and 13:42-49 for the previously presented elements of claim 1. Specifically, the examiner asserts that the "required printer type" is a "specific printer" and that "each portion of each job that correspond to different characteristics, is divided and put into a queue that corresponds to each

specific printer" (Office Action page 6). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant submits that Christodoulou and Rourke are silent as to a required printer including a "specific printer," a "color printer," and a "black/white printer." Christodoulou and Rourke are also silent as to the selective allocation of a print job into jobs for a specific printer, a color printer, and finally to a black/white printer.

The Examiner cites Rourke 13:42-49 for the allocation of print jobs. However, Rourke 13:42-49 does not prioritize a print job for a specific printer, a color printer and then a black/white printer. Rourke 13:42-49 describes a "matrix, indicating each of the queues that are capable of processing at least a portion of the job completely." This matrix "determines one or more queues from the plurality of queues, to which one or more portions of the jobs is to be provided." This matrix does not identify a specific printer for a portion of a print job. Thus this matrix can not allocate print jobs to a specific printer, a color printer and then a black/white printer.

The examiner now cites Chang 6:7-49 for the previously presented element from claim 14 "wherein the appropriate printer is determined using a print farm profile; and wherein the print farm profile includes data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Chang 6:7-49 describes output device data fields including "identification, ... services and feature sets, ... type of input languages, ... device specific or dependent profiles, ... payment information, ... security requirements, ... date and version, ... and software components...". Chang's output device data fields are static and do not include "data regarding a number, a size, and a type for each of a plurality of print jobs in a print queue for the appropriate printer, and a
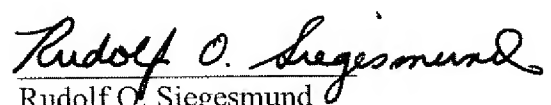
printer speed and an amount of paper in a printer bin for the appropriate printer" as required by amended claim 1. In contrast, Chang teaches that "an information apparatus can pervasively output digital content to an output device" through a server application "regardless of the processing power, display screen size and memory space of the information apparatus." (Chang Abstract and 1:10-14). Chang sends output to a single device. Chang does not allocate a print job to multiple printers.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the references. The remaining claims 2-13 depend from allowable claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the presently pending claims 1-13 are now in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions, applicant requests the examiner call applicant's attorney at 214-231-4703 (direct).

Respectfully submitted,

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